

have certain favored programs that aren't subject to limitations, whether we're going to make those decisions for them, and whether or not this Legislature is sincere about reducing the reliance on property taxes across the State of Nebraska. Those are the central elements that I think ought to be discussed and debated with relationship to this amendment to the amendment. And as I say, I'm grateful that the discussion has indeed turned in that fashion. And I'm particularly grateful for the remarks of Senator Robinson. He's indicating, I think, in his remarks that this provision that I'm seeking to strike in the bill, the exception to the lid is designed to potentially benefit five or six schools, and the schools aren't sure whether they even need it, because I think he indicated that if the school weatherization monies were left in, and we may have to discuss that later, that if other funds that are available were used, that they might not even need a lid exception. And I think again he said it was five or six schools that might benefit by this lid...the lid exception that's currently in the amendment. For such a small policy objective, why would we confuse our other larger objectives? Why would we confuse our larger objective of attempting to reduce reliance on property taxes and send a consistent message across the State of Nebraska that that's what we're going to do? I don't think it's worth it. If there is other justification for the lid exception, I'll be happy to hear from Senator Robinson, but based on what he's told me to date, I think he's made the very best argument for my amendment not for the exception.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, Senator Robinson, let me ask you a couple questions just to understand a little bit better one section of the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Robinson.

SENATOR BEUTLER: This is not the lid section, as such, but it has to do with taxing authorities and so all this kind of goes together. But the ESU's, on page 9 of the bill, starting on line 15 it says, "an amount not to exceed the proceeds of one-half of the five-tenths"...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Right.